



Assistant Commandant's Perspective

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Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) is a national effort to achieve an effective understanding of anything in the global maritime environment that could affect the security, safety, economy, or environment of the United States. It involves combining both intelligence products and robust situational awareness to provide operational commanders and other decision makers the information they need for all their maritime missions.

MDA will allow us to:

- detect, deter, and defeat threats as early and distant from U.S. interests as possible;
- enable accurate, dynamic, and confident decisions and responses to the full spectrum of maritime threats;
- sustain the full application of the law to ensure freedom of navigation and the efficient flow of commerce.

Achieving the needed level of Maritime Domain Awareness is a challenge that demands solid partnerships across all government agencies, as well as with commercial and private interests. The national MDA Implementation Team, which I co-chair along with BGEN Rudesheim from the staff of the Joint Chiefs, is working to develop a federal MDA unity of effort that will be the focus of liaison and partnership with state, local, international, public, and private interests.

An important part of developing these partnerships is outreach and communication, of which this issue of *Proceedings* is an important part. I hope it serves to inform and enlighten, as well as to help many of our potential partners understand how they might participate in this important endeavor.

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